

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Quick-coupling~~ A quick-coupling and quick-release connector for piping, comprising

two tubular fitting parts (1,2) fastenable to respective pipes (3,4) to be coupled and quick-coupling and quick release means (15) for said tubular fitting parts (1,2), said quick-coupling and quick release means (15) ~~comprising~~ including a plurality of locking segments (16) circumferentially distributed in a plane perpendicular to ~~the~~ a longitudinal axis of said tubular fitting parts (1,2) and housed in a radially movable way in respective radial slots (17) of an axial projecting portion (6) of a first one of said tubular fitting ~~part (2)~~ parts that, during ~~the~~ a coupling stage, is superimposable to a corresponding projecting axial portion (5) of ~~the~~ a second one of said tubular fitting ~~part (1)~~ parts,

a revolving ring (18) controllable to rotate around the axial projecting portion (6) of the first tubular fitting part (2) in order to work on said locking segments (16) so as to push them into at least one radial seat (33) of said axial projecting portion (5) of the second tubular fitting part (1) or to house them in their own radial seats (34), respectively for the coupling and the uncoupling of said tubular fitting parts (1,2), and

a first hydraulic cylinder (19) reacting between said first tubular fitting part (2) and said revolving ring (18), ~~characterised in that it comprises~~

an additional ~~independent~~ by independently operable hydraulic cylinder (19) arranged substantially at 180° from the first one in the rotation plane of the revolving ring (18), each one of said hydraulic cylinders (19) being arranged so as to react between a first lever (22) fastened to said first tubular fitting part (2) and a second lever (23) fastened to the revolving ring (18), said first lever (22) being made up of a ~~radially more external~~ first part (24) positioned radially away from the two tubular fittings and of a ~~radially more internal~~ second part (25) positioned radially towards the two tubular parts, the first part and the second part being connected with each other by an articulation (26) which is modifiable in order to be able to assume two different operating conditions, one operating condition ~~for the~~ a complete mutual locking of the two parts (24, 25) of the first lever (22) and the other ~~one of consent for the~~ operating condition allowing rotation of the ~~radially more external~~ first part (24) of the first lever (22) in a direction of approach to the second lever (23).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Connector~~ The connector according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~radially more internal~~ second part (25) of the first lever (22) is provided with a shoulder (39) against which the ~~more external~~ first part

(24) of the first lever (22) ~~can abut~~ abuts in order to prevent the rotation of said ~~more~~ external first part (24) in a direction of movement away from said second lever (23).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Connector~~ The connector according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said modifiable articulation (26) is made up of a hingement pin (27) and of a gudgeon (28) insertable in lined up holes (~~29, 30~~) of the two parts (~~24, 25~~) of the first lever (22) when in the coupling stage and disinsertable from them when in ~~the~~ an uncoupling stage.